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**HEATHER DUFF**

I Look In Your Library, Find Something By Susan Musgrave

I look in your library, find something by Susan Musgrave

assonance by candle

mildew and web

I wish on a Legion Hall

a place to eat blackberry
tarts

play Crazy Eights

for vets of the loony bin

sea witches and skinks

*Alders bend low

hush, my breath

in the stillborn forest*

I stare at your wall

at rust on machetes

bow and arrow
darts for a fir target

shiskebob skewer

pellet gun loaded for mice

World War I bayonet

with trough for running

blood

Next PMS

like library books

I will borrow your weapons

slay mental doctors

from my sordid past

dangle their heads

from birches that weep

*Alders bend low—

hush, my breath

in the stillborn forest*

Heather Duff’s poetry has appeared in *PRISM international, Textual Studies in Canada, Pottersfield Portfolio, Dandelion, Grain,* and *is forthcoming in both Descant and The Antigonish Review.*

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**EILEEN CURTEIS**

The Wisdom Of Torn Skirts

Roots in my cellar

and more roots

enough to cover me

from the shame of living here

but I am not ashamed.

Fighting for life

I've gone down under the brambles

held love like a lily

seen terror

the poisoned blackberry

cut me up like a thorn

cut me down like a tree.

I've seen death on the highway

flown into her like a blind bird.

Driving down wrong roads

in search of the right shore

for a girl to walk on

I've crossed over the bridge

called ugly

to embrace the goodness in me.

My torn skirts

have aged me considerably.

*The poem previously appeared in Grail.*

*A religious sister, teacher, and poet, Eileen Curteis has been involved in a healing ministry for the last six and a half years at Queenswood in Victoria, B.C. She is the author of Sojourner, Know Yourself, Moving On and Wind Daughter.*